MINUTES

OF THE

S E S S I O N

OF THE

EV. LUTHERAN SYNOD

OF

MARYLAND & VIRGINIA,

Held in Middletown, Md. Oct. 17th, 18th, 19th, & 20th. 1824.

1824

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~~1825.~~

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EVANG. LUTHERAN SYNOD.

SUNDAY, Oct. 17th.

THE Reverend Clergy and Lay-delegates assembled at the house of the resident pastor, and at 10 o'clock A. M. moved in procession to the Church. The Rev. Dr. Kurtz delivered an erudite, impressive and very appropriate discourse on Heb. 13, 8. *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever."*

After which the holy supper of our crucified Redeemer was administered to the ministers and lay-delegates, and to the members of the church.

In the afternoon the Secretary preached on Ezra III, 11. *"And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice."*

At early candlelight the Rev. N. Schmucker preached on Isaiah III, 10. *"Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their doings."*

The preparatory discourse had been delivered on Saturday at 3 o'clock P. M. by the Rev. Mr. Kuebler and service at night conducted by the Rev. Mr. Wachter, text 2 Cor. 4, 17. 18. On Sunday morning the Rev. Mr. Herbst delegate from the Pennsylvania Synod, delivered a discourse in the German Reformed Church on the words (Matth. x, 32.) *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven."* And the afternoon service was conducted in the same place by the Rev. Mr. Reck.

Monday 9 o'clock A. M.

The session of the Synod was opened by the Rev. Dr. Kurtz by an impressive prayer to the great head of the Church after the brethren had "sung an hymn."

The names of the ministers belonging to this Synod were then called as follows:

1.	Rev.	D. Kurtz, D. D.	Baltimore.
2.	- -	J. Herbst,	Manchester, Md.
3.	- -	J. Grobb,	Tawneytown, Md.
4.	- -	D. F. Schaeffer, A. M.	Fredericktown, Md.
5.	- -	G. Flohr,	Wythe Co. Va.
6.	- -	F. Haas,	Woodsbury, Md.
7.	- -	M. Sackman,	Loudon Co. Va.
8.	- -	A. Reck,	Winchester, Va.
9.	- -	B. Kurtz,	Hagerstown, Md.
10.	- -	N. Schmucker,	Woodstock, Va.
11.	- -	M. Meyerhœffer,	Harrisonburg, Va.
12.	- -	F. Heyer,*	Cumberland, Md.
13.	- -	H. Graber,	Uniontown, Md.
14.	- -	J. Koehler,	Madison, Va.
15.	- -	C. P. Krauth,	Martinsburg, Va.
16.	- -	S. S. Schmucker, A. M.	New-Market, Va.
17.	- -	J. Schnee,	Middletown, Md.
18.	- -	J. Winter,	Jerardstown, Va.
19.	- -	W. Keil,	Strasburg, Va.
20.	- -	F. Rothrauf,	Williamsport, Md.
21.	- -	M. Wachter,	Frederick Co. Md.
22.	- -	N. B. Little,	
23.	- -	J. Medtard.	

Absentees were Messrs. Grobb, Flohr, Haas, Meyerhœffer and Heyer.

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* Mr. Heyer is about to remove to Somerset, Pa. and will therefore hereafter be a member of that Synod.

LAY-DELEGATES.

24. Mr. J. Bachman, - - - - Manchester, Md.
25. - - J. Ebert, - - - - Frederick, Md.
26. - - P. Frey, - - - - Loudon C. Va.
27. - - A. Lauk, - - - - Winchester, Va.
28. - - Val. Marter, } - - Hagerstown, Md.
29. Dr. Boerstler, Senr. }
30. Mr. C. Maurer, } - - - Woodstock, Md.
31. - - J. Hahn, }
32. - - J. Moehring, - - - Uniontowu, Md.
33. - - J. Zimmerman, - - - Madison, Va.
34. - - J. Small, - - - - Martinsburg, Va.
35. - - L. Pitman, - - - - New-Market, Va.
36. - - T. Castle, - - - - Middletown, Md.
37. - - A. Weideman, - - - Jerardstown, Va.
38. - - W. Baltis, - - - - Strasburg, Va.
39. - - D. Reidenour, - - - Williamsport, Md.
40. - - F. Eichelberger, - - Kriegerstown, Md.
41. - - F. Carsten, - - - Preston Co. Va.
42. The Rev. Mr. Herbst appeared, was acknowledged as delegate from the Pennsylvania Synod and presented to the brethren copies of the minutes of their proceedings.

The Synod therefore consisted of fourty two members, and the brethren were gratified to see so large a number of lay-delegates.

The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:

Rev. Mr. D. F. Schaeffer, A. M. President.
——— S. S. Schmucker, A. M. Secretary.
——— C. P. Krauth, Treasurer.

The various communications to be submitted to the Synod were handed in, and the following committees appointed to report on their contents:

1. *Committee*, Rev. Dr. Kurtz, Rev. Herbst, Senr. Messrs. Bachman and Frey, to report on papers marked No. 1.

2. *Committee*, Rev. B. Kurtz, Rev. Rothrauf and Messrs. Pitman and Castle, to report on papers No. 2.

3. *Committee*, Rev. Herbst Junr. Rev. Sackman and Mr. Ebert and Dr. Boerstler, to report on papers No. 3.

4. *Committee*, Rev. Messrs. Krauth and Reck, Messrs. Small and Weideman, to report on papers No. 4.

5. *Committee*, Rev. Messrs. Schnee and Winter, Messrs. Eichelberger and Baltis, to report on papers No. 5.

6. *Committee*, Rev. Messrs. Wachter and Medtard, Messrs. Zimmerman and Maurer, to report on papers No. 6.

7. *Committee*, Rev. Messrs. Koehler and Graber, Messrs. Hahn and Lauk, to report on papers marked No. 7.

At 10 o'clock the Synod adjourned to attend public worship. The Rev. Mr. B. Kurtz delivered an impressive discourse on 1 Chronicles 29, 15. *"For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers; our days on earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding."*

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Opened with prayer by the Rev. Reck.

Rev. Mr. Krauth, Secretary of a Special Conference held at Strasburg, Va. made the following report:

At the solicitation of a number of the members of the Strasburg congregation the Rev. S. S. Schmucker, —Rev. N. Schmucker and C. P. Krauth met in the congregation in the month of May for the purpose of endeavouring, by divine assistance, to bring together and to reduce to order, the discordant materials of which the Congregation unfortunately consisted. — Other brethren residing in Virginia were invited, but none but those mentioned above found it convenient to attend. — The first evening of the meeting divine service was performed in the English language, and a Sermon on the subject of brotherly love was preached from Ephes. 5, 2. The following morning was spent in a conversation with the different parties into which the Congregation had been divided, and the way prepared to bring them together. After divine service, performed in both languages, the formula for the government and discipline of the church which had been previously spoken of, read and explained — was proposed as the basis of union, and was unanimously adopted by the Congregation.

At a meeting held in the afternoon at the house of an aged

member of the church at which were present the principal persons of both parties, it was determined after much interchange of friendly paternal feeling, that for the accommodation of the Germans and English belonging to the Congregation, that the Rev. N. Schmucker should be invited, untill the Syn. meeting to officiate in German and the Rev. Keil in English. The brethren assembled on this occasion, departed, leaving to all appearance parties completely reconciled which had been at variance for several years, and impressed with the belief that they would hence forth live as it becometh brethren professing the same faith, and belonging to the same Christian establishment. The praise of all that was done we ascribe to the great head of the Church, whose presence, and whose love were most remarkably felt during the whole of this interesting and in many respects, most intricate business.

Rev. Dr. Kurtz chairman of *the first committee* reported: that the papers submitted to them contained

1. Two letters from the Rev. Mr. Schober and one from Rev. Mr. Jenkins of North Carolina, bearing the most flattering testimony to the exemplary deportment, the zeal and the success of the Rev. Mr. Medtard, who had been sent by our Synod as missionary to that section of the country; and expressing also their earnest wish that he might accept the charge of the churches in Lincoln, where his services would be very acceptable.

Resolved, that the reception of this intelligence affords the Synod unfeigned pleasure.

The same letters contained a request, that a minister might be sent to take charge of some churches in Rowan Co. where he would meet with a welcome reception, be comfortably supported and find an extensive field of labour.

2. Letters from Carolina relative to the missionary tour of the Rev. Mr. Little.

Resolved that the discussion of these be referred to the Ministerium.

3. A memorial from a member of the Tennessee Conference to this Synod desiring information relative to certain subjects connected with our General Synod, and the Formula of Government and Discipline adopted by this Synod, and stating that the

communication of the information desired "would be beneficial to many of his brethren as well as to himself."

Resolved that the Rev. Mr. Reck and the Secretary be a committee to frame a reply to this memorial.

Rev. Mr. B. Kurtz, chairman of the *second committee:* reported: that the papers submitted to their examination consist of several letters from Winchester, the one subscribed by twenty one persons belonging to the Evang. Luth. church in said place. The object of these communications was to call the attention of the Synod to a schism existing in said church, and praying them to adopt such measures as may remedy the evil. After much discussion on the subject of these memorials, it was

Resolved, that the officers of this Synod be a committee to prepare and forward a letter in reply to the memorials from Winchester.

Rev. Mr. Herbst Junr. chairman of the *third committee* reported: That the papers submitted to their inspection consisted of a memorial from the church-council of St. Johns church near Tawneytown, and of a copy of two letters, one from the same church-council, and the other from the council of the church in Tawneytown, both addressed to the Rev. Mr. Graber, and dissuading him from encouraging the erection of a certain church, whose location would be detrimental to the interests of these churches. The memorial prayed the Synod to interfere and prevent the erection of the contemplated church. After much discussion it was

Resolved, that the synod do not feel themselves at liberty to forbid the erection of said church.

The Rev. Mr. Krauth of the *fourth committee*, reported that the papers handed to them contained

1. A letter from the Rev. Mr. Meyerhœffer stating that indisposition prevented his attendance at Synod.

Resolved that his excuse for absence be sustained.

2. A letter from Frieden'schurch in which the church-council regret that the Rev. Mr. Meyerhœffer has discontinued his services as pastor, and in which they desire that Mr. S. S. Schmucker or Mr. N. Schmucker might take charge of the congregation, or at least to administer the Lord's supper to them.

The Secretary stated, that the multiplicity of his duties rendered it impossible for him to devote a portion of his time to this church. Rev. Mr. N. Schmucker also stated, that he could not take charge of it. It was then

Resolved, that our Rev. President write to Mr. Meyerhœffer on the subject of this church, and that the Rev. Mr. N. Schmucker administer the Holy Supper to its members this fall.

MONDAY EVENING, 6 o'clock.

The Rev. Mr. Kurtz addressed the throne of grace.

The deputies from the churches in Preston Co. Va. presented several papers which were submitted to the Rev. Dr. Kurtz for his report.

Two deputies from Appel's church appeared, and made application for a minister. After discussion it was found, that no arrangement could be made at present to supply the petitioners.

Rev. Mr. Schnee, chairman of the *fifth committee*, reported that their papers contained

1. A letter signed by several individuals, acting on behalf of the English Lutherans in Baltimore, stating that they are taking measures to provide a house of worship, and requesting, that the Rev. Mr. Medtard might be appointed to missionate amongst them for the term of 6 months.

Resolved that the Synod most cheerfully grant the request of the petitioners; it being understood, that the missionary shall receive his compensation, not from the synodical treasury, but from those among whom he labours.

2. A memorial from the church in Strasburg, Va. containing a flattering testimonial of the good conduct of Rev. N. Schmucker, and requesting permission to elect a new vestry.

Resolved, that the vestry in the church at Strasburg be increased to eight members, four elders and four deacons.

The further consideration of this matter was then deferred till to-morrow, in order that the Rev. Messrs. Schmucker Senr. and Keil together with their deputies, might confer together, and endeavour to form a plan of union.

Rev. Dr. Kurtz reported, that the papers on which he was directed to report consisted of two memorials from Salem's and

from Susanna churches, Preston Co. Va. signed, the one by sixty four, and the other by sixty three members of said churches, certifying that the Rev. Mr. Kuebler had been labouring amongst them for one year, that during this time his deportment had been very exemplary, that his doctrines perfectly accorded with the received doctrines of our church, and that in his mode of worship he had adhered to the order and regulations customary in our church and prescribed by our Formula of Government and Discipline; and both petitions concluded by praying that the Rev. Mr. Kuebler might be authorized to labour amongst them the ensuing year.

Rev. Mr. Medtard, of the *sixth committee*, reported that their papers contained

1. A letter from Winchester, relating to a petition from that place, and requesting the attention of the synod to said petition.

2. A letter from the vestry of Hawk's church, expressing their decided satisfaction with the Rev. Mr. Wachter, and the wish that he may continue among them.

3. A letter from the vestry of Creagerstown church to the same effect.

Resolved, that the Synod rejoice at the high estimation in which Mr. Wachter is held.

4. A letter from the Rev. Mr. Heyer, notifying the synod, that he has taken charge of churches in and near Somerset Pa. and that he must consequently hereafter belong to the synod within whose limits said churches are embraced.

Rev. Mr. Graber, of the *seventh committee*, reported: That the papers committed to them embraced

1. A letter from our beloved brother Flohr, in which he assigns the cause of his absence, and prays that the Spirit of God may preside at our meeting and direct our counsels. He also expresses his earnest desire, that if a missionary from our synod should pass through that section of the country, he might be directed to visit a destitute church in Greenbriar county, to which he himself formerly attended, but the charge of which he was, on account of bodily infirmity, compelled to relinquish.

2. A memorial subscribed by the church-councils of Woodstock, Zion and Huttle's churches, containing a flattering testi-

monial to the pastoral labours and deportment of the Rev. N. Schmucker, and certifying that his ministrations are crowned with much success.

The Rev. President then called the formal attention of the synod to the subject of colonizing the free people of colour on the coast of Africa, which has for some years engaged the attention of the religious public in our country. He gave an account of the Auxiliary society formed for this purpose in Fredericktown, of which he is a vice president. The Brethren expressed their views on this important subject, after which, on motion of the President, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland and Virginia, conceive it a duty to express their opinion upon any subject of importance to their brethren in the faith, when such expression may promise to be useful; and whereas the colonization of our free people of colour in a country, that is more congenial to their nature, and in which they shall be delivered from that degradation in which they must remain whilst they continue amongst us, appears to them an object that is of the deepest interest, and the accomplishment of which, affords the only prospect of saving our country from the horrors of future internal wars and bloodshed; and whereas the establishment of such colonies will tend to diffuse the blessings of christianity and civilization; therefore

1. *Resolved* that this synod highly approve of the plan for colonizing our free people of colour on the coast of Africa, and that the American Colonization Society merits the most cordial support of the patriot, of the philanthropist, and the christian.

2. *Resolved* that it is hereby recommended to all persons within the jurisdiction of this Synod to aid, according to their ability, in the promotion of the grand object of the American Colonization Society.

The session was concluded with prayer by Rev. Mr. Sackman.

Tuesday Morning.

The Rev. Mr. Medtard addressed the throne of grace.

The parochial reports were then made as follows:

PAROCHIAL REPORTS.

Names,	Congregations.	Baptisms.	Confirmed,	Communing memb.	Deaths,	Schools,	Contributions.
Dr. Kurtz*,							$ 10, 00
Herbst,	4	98		110	10	2	7, 81
Grobb,	3	85	78	496	15		
Schaeffer,	1	187	59	494	32	1	18, 00
Flohr,	5	56	20	154	10	2	5, 00
Haas*,							
Sackman,	2	50	14	64	20		7, 44
Reck,	3	40	3	122	9		Winchester 15, 82 Newtown 6, 82½ Bethel & others 5, 86
B. Kurtz,	4	156	89	646	45	4	Hagerstown 15, 00 Beard's 9, 00 Funkstown 6, 00
N. Schmucker,	3	124	35	236	24	3	5, 00
Meyerhœffer,	5	176	102	825	13	3	15, 00
Heyer*,							
Gracber,	4	57	20	587	14	3	Benjamin's ch. 4, 00 St. Mary 1, 48 Bast's ch. 2, 00 Pine Run 2, 52
Kochler,	1	32		65	6	1	9, 44
Krauth,	3	58	16	145	12	0	Martinsburg 8, 20 Smithfield 4, 26 Shepherdstown 14, 22
S. S. Schmucker,	4	64	42	151	19	2	Newmarket 8, 00 Individuals 2, 00 Mt. Pleasant 3, 20
Schnee,	5	90	54	320	35	2	18, 00
Winter,	4	17	17	105	6	0	Zion's 5, 77 Stone 3, 33 Green Spring 1, 17
Keil,	3	44	19	125	6		Valley 1, 45 Cedarcreek 1, 50 Capon 3, 62½
Rothrauf,	3	59	60	305	34		Williamsport 8, 00 Fiery's 15, 00
Wachter,	4	45	35	193	20		6, 12½
Little,		18		18	3		
Medtard,		13		30	1		
Kuebler.	5	105	32	114	8	1	

* Not reported.

53 05

Rev. Mr. Denius of the German Reformed church appeared, and was invited to a seat.

Rev. Mr. Schnee, of the committee appointed to examine the accompts of the Treasurer, reported, that they were found perfectly correct.

Messrs. Herbst and B. Kurtz were appointed to examine the minutes of the Pa. Synod, and reported their contents.

The delegates, who had been appointed to attend the last session of the Pa. Synod, presented their excuses for not having attended said session, which were accepted.

Messrs. B. Kurtz and the Secretary were appointed delegates to attend the next session of the Pa. Synod.

The President, and Messrs. Krauth and B. Kurtz were appointed delegates to the New-York Synod.

Resolved, that five hundred copies of the minutes of this session of our synod be printed, half in the German and half in the English language.

Resolved, that 20 copies of our minutes be sent to the New-York Synod, 20 to that of N. Carolina, 20 to Ohio, 10 to that of S. Carolina, 5 to the German Reformed classis of Va. and 5 to that of Md.

The synod adjourned to attend public worship.

The Rev. Mr. Graber preached on Matth. 12, 46 — 50.

Afternoon Session.

The session was opened with prayer by Rev. N. Schmucker.

The Secretary read to the Synod the reply of the committee to the memorial from a member of the Tennessee conference, which was accepted, and ordered to be printed in the minutes and some copies forwarded to our brethren of that conference.

The consideration of the affairs of the church at Strasburg was resumed, and after much and earnest consultation it was

Resolved, that it is recommended to the church at Strasburg, to elect eight members for a church-council, of which two Elders and two deacons must be elected from and by the German part of the church, and the same number of Elders and deacons must be elected from and by the English part of the church; that

these shall constitute one church-council, and that each party shall have equal rights and privileges in every thing connected with the church. One of the ministers shall be elected chairman of the council by ballot, at each session of the council.

The Secretary was appointed delegate to attend the next meeting of the Virginia classis of the German Reformed church; and Mr. Graber to attend that of the Maryland classis of said church.

Resolved, that the Rev. Mr. Rothrauf be permitted to take charge of the church in Mount Pleasant Md.

Resolved, that Rev. Dr. Kurtz, Messrs. Schnee and B. Kurtz be a committee to revise the constitution of this synod, and report at our next session.

Resolved, that the same gentlemen be a committee, whose duty it shall be to collect information relative to the missionary wants of our country, and report at our next session such measures relative to our missionary operations, as they may deem best calculated to promote the cause of Christ.

Resolved, that the President be authorized to appoint a missionary for the ensuing year.

Resolved, that as the widow of our brother Butler continues in very indigent circumstances, $ 10 be appropriated to her use from the treasury of the synod.

Resolved, that the next session of this synod shall be held in Hagerstown, on the fourth Sunday of October 1825.

The session was concluded with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Graber.

This evening the Rev. Mr. Krauth delivered a very impressive discourse from Acts 24, 25. "*And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.*"

After the public services of the evening had been concluded, the Synod held a short session, and the synodical business having been completed, the lay-members were released from further attendance, and the synod dissolved by a fervent address to the mercy seat of Christ, by our Reverend President.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF

THE MINISTERIAL SESSION.

The attention of the brethren was now directed to the propriety & expediency of the publication of a periodical Magazine for the promotion of piety and religious knowledge in the church, a subject on which they had been deliberating on former occasions. After a free interchange of views on this important matter, it was

Resolved, that the President, the Secretary and Messrs. B. Kurtz and Krauth be a committee, whose duty it shall be, to digest a plan for the publication of the contemplated Magazine; to submit this plan to each member of this Ministerium, and if approved of by a majority of the brethren, to adopt, on behalf of the Synod, all such measures as they deem necessary to the accomplishment of the object in view, & to superintend the editing of the work.

Mr. M. Kuebler applied to the Ministerium for license. He brought the most ample testimony of his having fully observed the rules and form of worship customary in our church and prescribed by our Formula of Government and Discipline; as is more fully stated in the Report of the Rev. Dr. Kurtz, to whom the papers relative to this subject were committed. The brethren therefore having required of Mr. Kuebler the promise, that he would continue to act in conformity to the principles and rules of our Formula, granted him a license for one year.

The committees appointed to examine the diaries and sermons of the Rev. Messrs. Winter, Keil and Rothrauf, handed in reports favourable to the character of the documents submitted to them.

It was *resolved*, that it shall be the duty of every minister of this Synod, annually to read from the pulpit of each of his churches the substance of the minutes of the synodical session, on the first day of stated public worship after they are received, and accompany it with such remarks, as he shall deem most conducive to the welfare of the church.

It was *resolved*, that the Rev. N. Schmucker, whose absence from several former sessions had prevented his previous ordination, be this day ordained as pastor.

ORDINATION.

Public notice having been given, a number of persons collected in the church, 11 o'clock, A. M. The whole congregation united in singing a hymn of adoration to the great Head of the Church, after which a prayer was addressed to him that heareth prayer. The Rev. Dr. Kurtz assisted by the officers of the Synod, then solemnly ordained as Pastor, the Rev. N. Schmucker according to the solemnities prescribed by the church on such occasions.

The pastor-loci now addressed the audience in a pertinent and solemn manner, the

Benediction

was pronounced & the audience dismissed.

Attest.

SAMUEL S. SCHMUCKER, Secretary.

REPLY,

To a memorial, addressed by a member of the Tennessee Conference, to this Synod.

To the members of the Tennessee Conference.

Dear Brethren,

A member of your body, having addressed a Memorial to the synod to which we belong, and having stated, that the sentiments contained in it, are entertained by the other members of your body, and that a reply would be acceptable to you all; the undersigned were appointed a committee, to communicate to you the information desired, hoping that it may tend to restore that harmony and good feeling, which have unhappily been interrupted.

The request of the memorialist, that we should pass judgment on the doctrinal purity of our brethren of the Carolina Synod, we deem not accordant with the principles of ecclesiastical government, prevailing in our church; inasmuch, as one synod has no jurisdiction over another, but the government of each over itself is final and supreme; excepting only, that *advisory* connexion formed by the General Synod. If, therefore, the Carolina Synod have erred from the faith, the only judicatory before which they can be accused is the General Synod, agreeably to Art. III. Sect. V. §. 1. and even that body can do no more than give their *deliberate opinion and advice*.

In reference to the inquiry, "whether the Gen. Synod claim all the Lutheran ministers and congregations in the United S. of N. America, as being under their care or jurisdiction," the Constitution of the General Synod itself limits its power to its own body, and even if it did not, the attempt of one ecclesiastical body to exercise jurisdiction over another, which is unconnected with it, must in our country of course ever be fruitless and absurd. And the Gen. Synod does acknowledge as brethren, and

sustain as valid, the transactions of such Lutheran ministers also, as may not see proper to avail themselves of the advantages afforded by this general union of our church.

For the true sense of the clause of the Gen. Synod's constitution, that "Jesus Christ, the great Head of his church, hath not, &c." we refer you to our Formula of Government and Discipline, where the idea intended by the framers of that constitution is more definitely expressed thus:" Jesus Christ has left no entire specific form of Government and Discipline for his church, and it is the duty of every individual church to adopt such regulations, as appear to them most consistent with the spirit and precepts of the New Testament, and best calculated to subserve the interests of the church of Christ." (ch. I. sect. V.) This same clause also contains a reply to the several queries relative to some parts of our Formula. In those points which are not specified by the word of God, we have followed the dictates of our own deliberate judgment.

As to the supposed power of the Gen. Synod, to introduce new doctrines into the church, we would not consent to the General Synod's exercising any such power, and believe none were given her in the constitution. The unaltered Augsburg Confession is the only Confession which this synod receive, or which has been received by our church in this country; and even the *Plan Entwurf* expressly stated p. 5. sect. 4. that the Gen. Synod has no power, to make any alterations in the doctrines hitherto received in our church, and the constitution of the Gen. Synod expresses the same idea in less perspicuous terms in Art. III. Sect. II. 3.

As to the excommunication &c. of such brethren, as might abandon some of the views of the Augsburg Confession, an examination of the constitution of the General Synod will teach you, that that body is nothing more than an *advisory* council, and therefore can have no power to excommunicate any minister, or lay-man, for any crime whatever. This power rests exclusively with each individual synod. All that the Gen. Synod can do, is, if they should observe any such deviation, to give their *advice* to the individual synod, & the nature of the advice which they would give, is best expressed in their own words, contained in the Address of the last General Synod: "that a man that is an heretic,

(Minutes, 1823: 14.)

who denies a fundamental doctrine, a doctrine essential to the christian scheme, we are bound, "*after the first and second admonition, to reject.*"

Having thus given you all the information desired by the memorial, we conclude by expressing our sincere and earnest prayer, that this communication may remove all the misconstructions under which you appear to have laboured, and be instrumental in restoriug a perfect union and harmony to the church.

Signed on behalf
of the Synod. ABRAHAM RECK,
SAMUEL S. SCHMUCKER.

MISSIONARY REPORT.

The Rev. Messrs. Krauth and B. Kurtz were appointed by the Synod, the former to prepare an abstract of the Journal of Mr. Medtard, & the latter of that of Mr. Little, and to forward them to the Secretary for insertion into the Minutes.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MISSIONARY JOURNAL OF THE REV. J. MEDTARD.

From this journal it appears that brother Medtard, agreeably to the appointment of synod, left home in the beginning of December, to preach the everlasting gospel in the destitute districts of those southern countries, from which the voice of distress, and of spiritual privation had been poured into our ears. — Appointed to labour for 3 months, he extended both the time and the missionary ground considerably, & returned not untill 8 months had been consumed, and several of the southern and western states had been passed through. Some extracts from his diary will show how he was employed. Wherever he came in the course of his mission, he was ready to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ, to perishing sinners, and in the general it may be remarked, that there were frequently evidences that the truth was efficacious, & the salvation of precious souls advanced. — In many dangers, and difficulties did our beloved brother experience the protection of his master, and often was he compelled, when reflecting upon the distinguished displays of his providen-

tial care, to ascribe praises unto him.— After travelling through Virginia, and preaching at Martinsburg, Shepherdstown, Winchester, Newmarket and Staunton, he arrived at Salem, the residence of the Rev. Mr. Shober, from whom he was, by the appointment of the Synod, to receive instructions in regard to his mission.

Tuesday, December 30th, 1823. I left Salem this morning to preach a funeral sermon about 4 miles from town. —

January 1st, 1824. This day I preached to a small congregation in Mr. Shober's church — Though few attended, God has promised, that his word shall not return to him void. Sunday, January 4th, This morning Mr. Miller accompanied me to Lexington, where I preached to a large assembly. After service, I attended a funeral 3 miles from Lexington with Mr. Miller. After he had preached, I followed with some remarks, which appeared to be impressive and useful to the people. January 9th. I arrived this evening at the house of the Rev. Mr. Stork, one of the father's of the church in this country. Jan. 10th. This morning I went to the Rev. Daniel Sherer. Jan. 11. Preached this day for Mr. Sherer to a small but attentive congregation, which I hope was benefited by the word. Jan. 12, I went this day with Mr. Sherer to Salisbury. 14th, Continued in town, & assisted at a prayer meeting — O, that preaching, prayer and exhortation may not be for nought. Jan. 17th. I returned this morning to Salisbury. 19th. Preached twice this day in Salisbury to large assemblies, and spent the evening with the Rev. Dr. Freeman whom I found to be a very agreeable man.

Jan. 20th. This morning I was engaged till 12 o'clock in making arrangements for one of our clergymen to take charge of the congregation at Salisbury —I succeeded well— Mr. Socke, who in a manner owns the church, agreed to give it up, and wait for his pay.

Lincolnton Febr. 8th. This morning I preached to a large congregation, the people were very attentive, and I hope benefited by the word — after church I dined with Mr. Berton — I preached again in the evening, congregation numerous and attentive. May the solemnity of this period continue to reign, untill Jesus alone becomes the theme of the people! — The people of Lincolnton are kind, hospitable and affectionate. — After preaching 2 or 3 times, it was with difficulty that I could get away. I intended to remain a few weeks and catechise the young people, but for particular reasons declined it.—

March 10th. This morning I went to Lexington Courthouse, where I preached to a good congregation. — In the evening I appointed meeting at Mr. Metz's house— a good many attended. — I delivered a lecture, and felt much liberty in speaking —the

effect on the congregation was powerful—a great solemnity prevailed, and I hope the seed may soon show itself in works of piety.

March 12th. Preached at Sandy Run to a few people, though not without effect — I felt some freedom, and the people wept much; may their sorrow work repentance unto life.

March 17th. I arrived in Charleston about 4 o'clock, and called upon Mr. Bachman, but found him not at home, he returned in the evening. 18th. Lectured this evening. 21st. Preached twice to day to numerous Congregations.

Ebenezer, April 6th. I arrived here about 8 o'clock, and stopped with young Mr. Bergman. 7th. I preached this morning to a small congregation in the Ebenezer church. 21st. I attended a meeting of Indians, and spoke to them by an interpreter, they were very attentive, and paid more regard to what I said than many white people. In the evening, I went to an Indian wedding. 3 Couple were married. 24th. I reached Brainerd this evening — after supper a prayer meeting was called, which was conducted with profit (I hope) to myself, the Indians, and whites that attended.

April 30th. This morning I heard of a German Settlement — and went to it, and put up with Mr. Shopner.

May 3d. I went to Shelbyville this morning and made an appointment. 5th. I preached this morning in the church on Duck Creek, useful I hope.

Lown Congreg. Saturday, May 29th. This morning I delivered a preparatory discourse, — intending administering the Lord's supper on the following day, a goodly number attended, and there was great attention, and I hope profit. — 30th. This morning a great number of people assembled — I delivered a discourse on the words: "*This do in remembrance of me.*"

The congregation was very attentive — After the sermon the communicants surrounded the altar & I endeavoured to keep their devotion alive by affectionate remarks. The most profound solemnity appeared to reign — many tears flowed, and the children of Zion were melted under the love of their King.

June 6th. Preached this morning to a large congregation at Mr. Shopner's meeting house. The people gave heed to the things they heard, and I hope much good was done. 9th. Preached my last sermon in Thompson's church. The weather was unfavourable, but many attended — the subject was solemn and grand and many were deeply impressed. 17th. Reached Shakers-Town this morning — I sent for one of their preachers — two made their appearance immediately, we had a controversy which lasted till late in the afternoon. 18th. This morning one of the preachers took me to visit the town, gardens, meeting-

house &c. 19th. Spent this day in conversation and argument with them. 20th. Attended a private meeting of the Shakers. They commenced by singing, which was followed by a short address from one of the preachers, and closed with dancing — they are industrious and neat — they live in harmony — they sing well, but are very uncharitable — they believe that salvation is only with them.

June 27th. I arrived in Cincinnati, and called upon the Rev. Mr. Meyers.

July 7th. This morning I went to Lancaster, and stopped at the Rev. Mr. Steck — I found him from home. In the evening he returned, and we had some conversation.

Somerset; I arrived here on the 9th. and was welcomed by the Rev. Mr. Henkel.

10th. Delivered a sacramental discourse this day for Mr. Henkel. 11th. I preached this day after the Sacrament for Mr. H.

Cumberland August 14th. Preached for Rev. Mr. Heyer in the afternoon to a crowded house — From C. I passed through Hagerstown to Fredericktown, the place from which I started.

During the journey it appears Mr. M. preached between 60 and 70 sermons — lectured several times, and attended various meetings for prayer and exhortation.

From the Rev. Mr. Kurtz the Secretary received a letter, giving the following account of the tour of the Rev. Mr. Little, and stating, that pressure of professional-duties, and indisposition of his family, had prevented him from presenting a more extended, and regular view of our brother Little's labours.

"From the journal of Mr. Little it appears, that he travelled without much delay, through Virginia to Salem N. Carolina, and there, according to his instructions, received from the Rev. Mr. Shober specific direction relative to the field of his labour. "After receiving my instructions, (says Mr. L.) I commenced, without delay, the work which was given me to do. As soon as I entered the county of Roane, N. C. I found much to do. The people in some places had little or no preaching — Some I found so poor, that they had no clothes, in which they would wish to ap-

pear at meeting, and consequently did not go, and hence could not hear of the friend of sinners — the Saviour of the world. I was under the necessity, of course, to do as did the Apostles: "teach them from house to house," especially, as at this time I could not conveniently convene a congregation through the week, as the people were preparing their ground for corn. This was my greatest obstacle. The people only come out on Sundays, and hence my labours were not so generally useful. In order to show you, in what a state of almost total destitution, as it respects the means of grace, and even the necessary enjoyments of life, many people are inveloped, I will give you a description of a family I visited — After riding all day ; in the evening I wished to find the house of a Mr. Glick, a Lutheran to whom I had been directed. I lost my way—night overtook me, and here I was, a stranger in a strange land—I rode on in the dark not knowing where I was going. At length I met an old woman, who had been from home to see her son— I told her, that I was a missionary, and asked if she knew where I could stay all night, telling her, I was a stranger, and lost — She told me, I could stay with her, I thanked her, and blessed God for having led me to an house. The old lady, a widow, and her daughter endeavoured, to make all things as agreeable and comfortable for me, as their humble condition and situation in life would admit — They gave me to eat, such as they had — being much fatigued, I read a chapter, sang an hymn, and addressed a throne of mercy, and then retired — The next morning I awoke quite refreshed. It still continued to rain — after breakfast, (for I chose this the most favourable time to give my instructions, wishing, when I left the house to leave the people under the influence of the impressions which might be made,) I called the family together, conversed familiarly with them on the suhject of religion — spoke of a future state, and the necessity of repentance and holiness, in order to befit us for happiness in that state—of prayer—watchfulness over our heart and tongue &c. We then sang an hymn, and again addressed the throne of grace. I adopted my prayer particularly to the situation and condition of the family — A widow and aged — a daughter and young — they were much affectcd. Hitherto they had thought but little of religion, not having an opportunity to attend church. The old lady became thoughtful, and the daughter was extraordinarily affected— The heavy tears fell in large and copious drops. After giving them all the encouragement necessary in the promises of God, and in the blood and merits of our benevolent and dear Redeemer, I committed them to God—asked his blessing upon them, bid them farewell, telling them I would see them no more untill I should see them at Jehovah's judgment bar — and then I left them."

From the general tenor of Mr. L's diary, it appears, that his hearers were frequently very much affected during his preaching—That those, with whom he conversed concerning the Luth. Church, were generally highly pleased with its doctrines, government, discipline &c. that he met with many towns and neighbourhoods, inhabited partly by Lutherans or the descendants of Lutherans, who would gladly support zealous and faithful ministers, if they could be provided with them from the bosom of the L. Church—that at some places, the people parted from him with great reluctance, manifesting the sincerity of their professions with weeping eyes—that in many vicinities the members of our Church very much lament, that the gospel and its ordinances cannot be dispensed to them by ministers of the Luth. Ch.— that in Salisbury particularly, a faithful minister might be greatly instrumental in furthering the good cause and be comfortably supported. It also appears, that Mr. L. was much concerned to do good and accomplish the important objects of his mission. He preached in season and out of season, publicly and from house to house — in the wilderness, and in desolate places, as well as in towns and cities."

Warmly attached ourselves to that consolidation of our ecclesiastical bodies, which was intended to be effected by a General Synod, and beholding with intense interest any thing that indicates a removal of the misapprehensions that have existed in regard to it, and a prospect of uniting the whole body of Lutherans, we publish with no moderate feelings of gratification, the following extract from an interesting letter of a distinguished clergyman of our church, in the interior of the state of New-York, whose connection with that Synod enables him to speak the sentiments of many of the brethren We rejoice, that the spirit of hostility which has recently manifested itself to this association and its operations, in a publication, from another quarter, does not prevail in every part of the church :

EXTRACT.

"I cannot close this communication without expressing to you my gratification in witnessing the zeal and perseverance, which you and such of our Lutheran brethren, who were associated with you, have manifested in forming and sustaining the General Synod ;—under so many discouraging circumstances. From the spirited measures which were adopted at a late meeting of the General Synod, I anticipate the most favorable results. They will no doubt be productive of many important advantages to our church in this country. They merit the approbation and claim the support of every Lutheran in the United States. And I trust, that the day is not far distant, when they shall no longer be divided by local jealousies and sectional distinctions : but when we shall all unite like a band of brethren, in support of the great and glorious cause in which we are engaged."*

BENEFITS OF THE REFORMATION.

The Reformation of the Church by Luther and others, has rid us of Idolatry—of Ave Marias—of Masses—of auricular confession—of holy water—of saints and saintesses—of racks, and screws, and faggots—of Jesuits, inquisitions, works of supererogation, penances, flagellations, and angels who pray for us ;—whilst we are presented with a simple ritual, with the doctrine of justification by faith alone—with the fountain of all true doctrine—the library of Heaven, the grand depository of truth and wisdom, mercy and holiness—the Book which the Lamb died to unseal, i. e. the pure, unsophisticated, uncommented WORD OF GOD.

Philosophy, Politics, and the Sciences, as shall be shewn hereafter, enjoy the happiest effects of the Reformation.

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* The letter from which the above extract is given, was received by one of the Editors, who, has never had the pleasure of a personal anquaintance with the writer. It is expected, that a correspondence will be continued and furnish our readers with interesting subjects.

Minutes

Of the Synod of Maryland and Virginia,

Held at Hagers-Town, Maryland, October 23d, 24th, 25th & 26th

Sunday morning the brethren assembled at the house of the resident pastor, and at 10 o'clock proceeded to the church. The Reverend President Schæffer delivered the pastoral discourse from 2 Cor. 5, 18. after which a Sacramental address was delivered by the Reverend Mr. Reck, and the Holy Supper administered to the ministers, the lay-delegates, and the members of the church.

In the afternoon, the Reverend Dr. Lochman delivered a discourse on Mark 16, 15. The Reverend Mr. Krauth delivered a sacramental address, and the Supper of our Lord was then administered to our brethren and members of the church, who are unacquainted with the German language.

At candle-light the Secretary delivered a discourse on Psalms 110, 3. In the Reformed church worship was conducted by the Reverend Medtart in the morning, and by the Reverend Reck in the afternoon; and in the Methodist church by the Reverend Kœhler in the morning, and in the afternoon by the Reverend Keil.

On Saturday morning the Reverend Reck preached in the Lutheran church on Hebrews 9. 28 and in the afternoon worship was conducted in the same place by the Reverend Krauth, text, 1 John, 1. 8, 9. The services of this day were preparatory to the administration of the Holy Supper.

Monday, 9 o'clock, A. M.—The Synod convened and was constituted by a solemn address to the Throne of Grace. The names of the ministers belonging to this Synod were then called, as follows:

1.	Reverend	Dr. Kurtz, ...	Baltimore, Md.
2.	"	J. Herbst, ...	Manchester, Va.
3.	"	J. Grobb, ...	Taneytown, Md.
4.	"	D. F. Schæffer, A. M.	Fredericktown, Md.
5.	"	G. Flohr, ...	Wythe, Va.
6.	"	F. Haas, ...	Woodsbury, Md.
7.	"	M. Sackman, ...	Loudon county, Va.
8.	"	A. Reck, ...	Winchester, Va.
9.	"	B. Kurtz, ...	Hagerstown, Md.
10.	"	N. Schmucker, ...	Woodstock, Va.
11.	"	M. Meyerheffer, ...	Harrisonburg, Va.
12.	"	H. Graber, ...	Petersburg, Va.
13.	"	J. Koehler, ...	Madison, Va.
14.	"	C. P. Krauth, ...	Martinsburg, Va.
15.	"	S. S. Schmucker, A. M. .	New Market, Va.
16.	"	J. Schnee, ...	Middletown, Md.
17.	"	J. Winter, ...	Jerardstown, Va.
18.	"	W. Keil, ...	Strasburg, Va.
19.	"	T. Rothrauf, ...	Williamsport, Md.
20.	"	M. Wachter, ...	———
21.	"	N. B. Little, ...	Cumberland, Md.

22. " J. MEDTART, ... ———————
23. " M. KUBLER, ... Preston county, Va.
24. " J. RECK, ... ———————

DEPUTIES.

John Boon,	Manchester, Va.	Adam Link,	Martinsburg, Va.
Charles Hess,	Taneytown, Md.	John Koller,	Middletown, Md.
John Ebert, Esq.	Fredericktown, Md	John Seybert,	Jerardstown, Va.
Thomas Hoist,	Winchester, Va.	Jacob Lambert,	Strasburg.
Frederick Stover,	Hagerstown, Md.	Fred'k Schuber,	Littlestown.
Charles Maurer, Jacob Ott,	Woodstock, Va.	Sam'l Birely,	Frederick co. Md.
		Fred'k Carston,	Alleghany co. Md.

Rev. Dr. Lochman was introduced as delegate from the Synod of East Pennsylvania, and Messrs. Moehler and Rothrauf, Senr. as delegates from West Pennsylvania Synod, and were all admitted to seat and vote amongst us.—An election was then held for the officers, and those of the former year were re-elected:

REV. D. F. SCHÆFFER, A. M. PRESIDENT.
" S. S. SCHMUCKER, A. M. SECRETARY.
" C. P. KRAUTH, TREASURER.

The papers addressed to the Synod were then handed in, and distributed as follows:

1. Committee—consisting of Revd. Herbst and Grobb, and Messrs. Boon and Hess, were committed papers marked No. 1.

2. Committee,—Rev. Dr. Lochman, B. Kurtz, Messrs. Ebert and Link, papers marked No. 2.

3. Committee,—Rev. Reck and Koehler, and Messrs. Hoist and Seybert, papers No. 3.

4. Committee,—Rev, Schnee and Winter, and Messrs. Koller and Lambert, papers No. 4.

It was *Resolved*, that the reading of the minutes of the last session of this Synod be dispensed with.

The Rev. Messrs. Rothrauf, Jr. and Keil, and Mr. Stover, were appointed a committee to extract from the minutes of our last Synodical session, such matters as may justly claim the attention of the Synod at this time.

The President then informed the Synod that several special meetings were held during the past year by the brethren in different sections of the church. He mentioned with particular approbation an association entered into by some of the brethren of this Synod, who meet monthly on a week day, alternately, throughout the different churches embraced in the association, for the purpose of edifying the churches by public worship, and confirming each others hearts by fraternal intercourse. He also stated, that he had licenced Mr. John Reck to perform the actus ministeriales.

In Union Church, also, within the district of Brother Meyerheffer, a special conference was held for the purpose of adjusting some difficulties between that congregation and Friedens-church.

Rev. Herbst, of the Synod of West Pennsylvania appeared and was invited to a seat and vote amongst us.

The committee appointed to examine the reports of the Treasurer, reported that his accounts were found correct, and that there remains in the hands of the Treasurer a ballance of $266 66 1-4.

Adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M.